

CONTRIBUTION OF M.I. PIROGOV TO DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

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The object of the article is to review and appraise Mykola Pirogov's contribution to the medical science.

A prominent scientist and a public character, founder of field military surgery Mykola Pirogov lived and worked on the outskirts of Vinnytsya in the village of Vyshnya from 1861 to 1891.

The contribution of Pirogov to science and medicine is inestimable. He was the one to lay the foundation of operative surgery, created classic accurate anatomic atlases. Much of attention Dr. Pirogov devoted to anatomy. Using the approach of freezing and sawing the corpses, he studied interrelation among organs in three dimensions which he called "ice anatomy". Thus, the new medical science of topographic anatomy was initiated.

In 1847 Mykola Pirogov left for the Caucasus where he first used ether narcosis and a mask constructed by him is still used in the medical practice. This experience let him advocate the idea of plastic surgeries, suggest bone grafting, use narcosis in the field military surgeries. He was the first to use plaster cast in the field. He assumed existence of pathogenic organisms which resulted in wound abscess and thereby introduced studies on asepsis and antiseptics.

Participating in fighting cholera in 1848, Mykola Pirogov conducted important researches into pathologic anatomy of cholera. During the siege of Sevastopol (1854-1855) he masterly performed operations, was among the initiators of sisters of charity service. At that time Pirogov popularized preserving surgeries and called upon to refuse early amputations in case of gunshot wounds of extremities with bone injuries. His plaster cast was used as a means for transportation, which enabled him to speak for extremities preserving surgeries and to reduce primary amputations. It is his definition of traumatic shock that is quoted in modern books as highly accurate and complete reflection of clinical presentation of this serious complication of gunshot wounds. Pirogov left his land in the village of Vyshnya for the theatre of war during Franko-Prussian (1870-1871) and Russo-Turkish wars (1877-1878).

In the last few years Mykola Pirogov spent most of his time in the village of Vyshnya where he opened free hospital, drugstore and turned over the land to the villagers as a present. Famous scientific works were written there; his last manuscript *The Old Physician's Diary* impresses its worth of thought, balance and integrity. It is a speculation about being, Universe, religion, God, about defining our life and our intellect. It is the code of his life principles and the main of which is craving for truth.

Mykola Pirogov died on November 2, 1882 having set a diagnosis of oral cavity carcinoma. After death of Dr. Pirogov, his wife ordered a special glass-lid coffin and got the consent of the church to embalm his body according to his will. The unique technique of embalming was performed by Doctor David Vydovtsev.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that all the discoveries and achievements of Mykola Pirogov rescued lives to thousands of people. He was a person who never refused to help and inured his life to the benefit of humanity.